

From: R. Douglas Barbieri
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/15/02 2:01am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I think that the Microsoft was a paltry settlement which is a mockery of the antitrust act. You wasted millions of taxpayer dollars to basically accuse Microsoft of being a monopoly then give them a slap on the wrist.

Having Microsoft donate computers pre-loaded with Windows to schools only give them an edge in a largely Mac-dominated arena.

What should be required of Microsoft is that all of their operating system source code should be required to be turned into open-source under the GPL license, and that said source code, complete with internal comments and documentation, be released to the general public. They should then be required to keep said source code up-to-date and published.

They should also be forced to adhere to open standards for data formats instead of being allowed to create their own, closed source versions. Those data formats (Windows Media, Microsoft Word, etc) help them maintain their monopoly on the world. By requiring them to play with open standards, we are guaranteed to be able to view their data formats on any system using non-Microsoft software.

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